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Committee Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee  
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## River Scheme Asset Management Plan Performance

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the 2006/07 Asset Performance Statements for the seven river management schemes within the Wairarapa.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the outcome of the annual peer review of Wairarapa river management works carried out by staff from the Flood Protection Department's Wellington Office.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to prepare long term strategic plans (LTCCP). The Asset Management plans are a key planning tool for management of the infrastructure assets and provide inputs into the LTCCP.
- 3.2 Basic Asset Management plans have been prepared for the seven Wairarapa river management Schemes serviced by the Flood Protection Department of the Catchment Management Division. Each year Performance Statements are prepared reporting on the Asset Management Plan performance indicators. The 2006/2007 Scheme Performance Statements for the seven schemes are included in this report as **Attachments 1 to 7** as listed below.

- Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (Attachment 1)
- Waiohine-Mangatarere (Attachment 2)
- Waingawa (Attachment 3)
- Upper Ruamahanga – Mount Bruce (Attachment 4)
- Upper Ruamahanga – Te Ore Ore (Attachment 5)
- Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone (Attachment 6)
- Waipoua (Attachment 7)

- 3.3 These plans are “live” documents, and will be improved and updated on an ongoing basis. A major review of all Western and Wairarapa River Asset Management Plans is in progress to achieve a more consistent approach, with an “umbrella” front document covering common policies/procedures with the specific details for each river appended. Asset registers and condition assessments are updated annually, and provide a basis for developing sustainable ongoing Scheme maintenance programmes.
- 3.4 An annual peer review of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out by staff from the Flood Protection Department’s Wellington Office. A report summarising the results from the August 2007 peer review is included as **Attachment 8**.
- 3.5 A major project to revalue the department's assets has been completed. The last asset valuation was completed in 2002. The value of Flood Protection’s infrastructural assets has increased by 34%, from \$140.9 million to \$189.3 million. The increase can be mainly attributed to a substantial increase in material and construction costs and an increase in the number of assets since the last re-valuation. An external peer reviewer has confirmed that the revised asset values are acceptable and appropriate for financial reporting purposes.
- 3.6 A requirement of the consent for the Waiohine, Upper Ruamahanga schemes and the Waipoua, involves the reporting on habitat and provides the status of the number of pools in the river. This reporting has been rescheduled with the agreement of Fish and Game and has therefore resulted in a minor exception on the performance criteria for those rivers.

## **4. Scheme Status**

### **4.1 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

There was a major flood event in July 2006 which had a very long duration and caused extensive damage to both LWVDS assets and farms especially on the fringes of Lake Wairarapa. The Oporua floodway operated continuously for two and half days, and Lake Wairarapa reached a level of 12.2 m, the highest since the completion of the scheme.

The flood damage cost was \$1.2 million and the major damage sites were at Shelton & Guscott, Hikunui sill, Pukio area and Oporua Floodway. All works were completed except for the construction of a debris barrier at the Hikunui sill. \$120,000 has been carried forward to the 2007/08 financial year for this work. Due to the extensive work on flood damage repairs, it was decided to postpone the commencement of the improvement works programme. The total expenditure, including flood damage and maintenance work was \$1.78 million.

A major upgrade of the wiring system of the Barrage Gates was completed last year to resolve a defect in the old wiring system that affected the operation of the gates. To provide additional operating security, two close circuit television cameras were installed, one at the Barrage Gates and the other at Lake Onoke to view the gates and monitor the state of the mouth blockage.

The review work of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme classification continued with the holding of three Review Committee meetings and four public meetings. As an outcome of these meetings, a number of minor changes needed to be made. Also there was legal advice not to introduce the new classification for 2007/08 as there was not enough time to complete a robust special consultative process as required under the Local Government Act. Instead it has been recommended that staff should consult with the Review Committee and seek their endorsement of the proposed changes. With that endorsement, it will be necessary to proceed with the special consultative process to gain acceptance of the new rating classification. It will then be recommended to the Council for adoption, prior to this year's Annual Plan process.

One of the River Hands resigned following a year's service for GWRC. A replacement has been appointed. Due to the enhanced maintenance and the works programmes increasing the work substantially, staff resources to meet this commitment are being reviewed.

The Scheme's Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been achieved satisfactorily except for a few minor items.

The scheme reserve closing balance, as at 30 June 2007, was \$874,743 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$473,935.

The LWVDS Global Resource Consent is in the final stages of completion and has agreement from all affected parties, except one Iwi group. A further meeting was held with the Iwi group and the contents of the report were explained to them in detail. It is expected that their agreement would be forthcoming, in which case the Consent could be processed as a non-notified and be in place by October 2007.

#### **4.2 Waiohine-Mangatarere River Management Scheme**

The current annual works programme of \$244,000 is seen as inadequate to meet ongoing Scheme maintenance needs, and it is planned to increase this to \$272,000 for the 2008/09 financial year.

Currently there are no serious erosion areas which are directly affecting farmland, however there are still areas identified within the active channel which need addressing to work towards achieving the design channel alignment. Rock groynes are being used at the most vulnerable sites. Flood damage funding was not called upon this year, as there were no large flood events.

The schemes Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied.

The Scheme reserve closing balance was \$327,622 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$15,631.

### **4.3 Waingawa River Management Scheme**

The Waingawa Scheme is in good overall financial and physical condition. Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied. rescheduling of the reporting of the trout habitat requirement in the consent. The Waingawa River has benefited from being free of large floods since 2004. This has enabled good progress to be made on improving the river alignment and planting. The annual works programme expenditure of \$169,500 is adequate to meet the Scheme's ongoing maintenance needs. Scheme assets are generally in good condition.

The Scheme reserve closing balance was \$33,280 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$10,420. A review of the Waingawa Scheme is to be commenced this financial year.

### **4.4 Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce River Management Scheme**

This Scheme extends from Hidden Lakes to Te Ore Ore Bridge. The Scheme works programme this year is \$85,000 and is providing an adequate level of service and is in a sound financial position.

Generally dozer machine time and planting is used to maintain this reach of the river. However, erosion on a section of the river bank near the Black Rock road required the construction of rock groynes to protect the Masterton District Council's roading asset. Masterton District Council contributed 60% of the total costs, which amounted to \$30,000. Further rock groynes were constructed in the Trimble Trust area.

Aerial spraying planned for specific reaches on densely vegetated islands and beaches will be reviewed to determine if it is a cost effective operation to maintain the design alignment.

The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied for this scheme.

The Scheme reserve closing balance was \$42,966 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$3,543.

### **4.5 Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore River Management Scheme**

The middle section of the Scheme extends from the Te Ore Ore Bridge to Wardells Bridge. Erosion on the section of the river by Henley Lake Park required the construction of rock and boulder groynes. The alignment of the river to the preferred design has been achieved by the use of dozer machinery and is recognised as an effective tool by the Scheme's committee members. The committee is mindful of the management of Old Man's Beard and has increased the works programme by \$5,000 on the 2007/2008 budget to cater for additional spraying.

The level of the annual Scheme maintenance programme for this section is \$115,000 and provides an adequate level of funding. The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied.

The Scheme reserve closing balance was \$49,014 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$3,543.

#### **4.6 Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone River Management Scheme**

This is the lower section of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme extending from Wardells Bridge to the Waiohine confluence.

This section suffered from moderate erosion following two freshes during the year. The repairs, amounting to \$40,000, were supported by a 50% contribution from the flood fund.

The scheme committee instructed that the rates should not be increased and furthermore the operational budget should be decreased by 5% with that amount transferring into the reserves. The level of the annual Scheme maintenance programme for this section is \$97,000 in 2007/2008. Officers have accommodated this specific request into the coming year's works programme but it is not considered a sustainable approach in the long term.

Over the last 3 years the Carterton District Council and GWRC have been investigating and reviewing options for protecting the erosion at The Cliffs on Daikens Road, a popular recreation reserve and the access route for several properties. A proposal for the construction of a series of rock groynes and tree planting has been estimated at a cost of \$158,000 (exl. GST) and would be funded as a 50:50 contribution from GWRC and Carterton, with GWRC contribution as an additional one-off grant to the river scheme.

The Scheme reserve closing balance was \$31,851 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$3,543.

The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied for this scheme.

#### **4.7 Waipoua River Management Scheme**

There were a number of small floods over the year which caused some damage but not in the areas that were repaired after the serious floods in 2004. The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been largely satisfied. The Scheme has recovered financially from the significant costs incurred from the flood damage in the period up to and including 2004. This recovery necessitated the rates to be doubled in 2001 and the provision of additional external funding from a number of sources. Once the Waingawa Scheme has been reviewed it is planned to review the lower section of the Scheme.

The Scheme reserve closing balance is now in credit of \$9,755 with the Major Flood Investment Fund closing balance at \$10,420.

## **5. Peer Review of Maintenance Standards**

A peer review of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out on the Lower Valley Drainage Scheme and one Wairarapa scheme by river engineering staff from the Council's Flood Protection Department Wellington office in August 2007 (see **Attachments 1-7**).

A total of six sites were inspected within the Lower Wairarapa Valley Drainage Scheme. These included sites of wave lap erosion and stopbank repairs in the lower Ruamahanga River, the Barrage Gates, Oporua floodway, "Duckbill" structure and at the Hikunui Sill.

Within the Waiohine River Scheme, sites at Fairbrothers, Kuratawhiti Street and Engel's bend were inspected.

The peer reviewers are of the view that given the resources available, correct decisions are being made with regard to river maintenance works. As has been noted by reviewers in the past, the approach taken in many situations by the Engineers of the Wairarapa Office is innovative and done with foresight, often as a direct result of budget constraints.

The reviewers are confident that the schemes within the Wairarapa area are being managed and maintained appropriately given the resources available.

## **6. Summary**

The Wairarapa River Scheme Asset Management Plans have been updated, and the 2006/2007 performance criteria of the schemes have been generally met on all of the schemes. Adequate regional funding has been approved in the Council's Business Plan to support satisfactory Scheme maintenance programmes for the coming year.

In the northern area of the Wairarapa there was no significant storm damage during the year, however the major flood event in the Lower Valley Development Scheme in July 2006 required flood damage repairs amounting to \$1.2 million. Due to the extensive work on flood damage repairs, it was decided to postpone the development works programme. The total expenditure, including flood damage and maintenance work was \$1.78 million.

The value of the Scheme reserves at 30 June 2007 was \$1.4m which was unchanged from the previous year. Most Scheme reserves increased except for the LWVDS which reduced by 20% to fund flood damage. There is a further \$521,000 of Schemes funds in the Council's Major Flood Investment Fund.

The review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme classification, having completed a number of meetings, is now at the stage where further consultation will be required with the community to communicate and gain acceptance of the new rating classification.

At the annual scheme meetings, positive feedback was provided from a number of the committee members regarding the ongoing management by the Flood Protection staff. This is a welcome endorsement for the work completed on the river schemes and for the processes and practices that are in place.

The annual peer review of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was completed and the reviewers are of the view that given the resources available correct decisions are being made with regard to river maintenance works. The reviewers are confident that the schemes within the Wairarapa Region are being managed and maintained appropriately given the resources available.

## **7. Communication Requirements**

The Asset Management Plan Performance Statements and copies of the Flood Protection Group's audit report will be presented to the Schemes advisory committees for their information.

## **8. Recommendation**

*That the Committee:*

- (1) ***Receives*** the Asset Management Plan Performance Statements prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme; and the Waiohine-Mangatarere;, Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce; Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore; Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone; Waingawa; and Waipoua River Management Schemes.
- (2) ***Receives*** the August 2007 Peer Review of River Management Asset Maintenance Standards for the Wairarapa.

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